

Minutes of the 75th Sport and Recreation Alliance Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 14 July 2016 at 11.15 am, King's Building, Strand, London WC2

Present:

In the Chair, President HRH The Earl of Wessex KG GCVO ADC
Chair Andrew Moss
Chief Executive Emma Boggis

Members and Guests:

Tracey Adams	Rocketseed
Yani Ahmed	QuidditchUK
Chris Baillieu MBE	Sports Aid
Peter Baines	Rugby Football Union
Bobby Barnes	Professional Players Federation
Derek Batchelor	Badminton England
Jane Bateman	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Brendon Batson OBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Nick Bitel	Sport England
Paul Blanchard	Commonwealth Games England
James Brandon	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Ian Braid	British Athletes Commission
Rosemarie Breitenstein	Sport and Recreation Alliance Honorary Member
Jonathan Bruck	Table Tennis England
Nick Bunting	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
David Callan	Sport and Recreation Alliance
William Campbell	Utility Aid
Ray Carter OBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Phil Chamberlain	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Colin Corbett	Guild of Professional Teachers of Dance
Diane Corbett	A.D.F.P.
Michael Crichton	Association for Physical Education (afPE)
Naomi Curniffe	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Bridget Cushen	British Masters Athletic Federation
Kelly Dakin	GBG
Michael De Giorgio	Greenhouse Sports
Malcolm Denton	Sport and Recreation Alliance Honorary Member
Angela Denton	Sport and Recreation Alliance Guest
Hannah Dobbin	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Richard Doubleday	Perkins Slade
Kevin East	Canoe Camping Club
Phil Ehr	English Chess Federation
Dame Di Ellis	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Jason Ferguson	WPBSA Ltd
William Firth	Sports Leaders UK

Janie Frampton	SOUK
Sam Franks	Hiscox Insurance
Michelle Fulford	British Gymnastics
Nicola Gaines	The Dalcroze Society UK
Robert Gill	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Helen Griffiths	Fields in Trust
George Bede Grossmith	UK Armed Forces Sports Board
Anna Grundy	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Mike Gunston	British Balloon & Airship Club
Jacqueline Harper	Margaret Morris Movement
Tim Hatton	Notts County FC Football in the Community
Brian Havill	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Richard Haygarth	UK Golf Course Owners Association
Emma Henderson	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Elaine Holmes	Traveleads
Judith Holt	British Orienteering
Chris Hornby	WPBSA Ltd
Barry Horne	EFDS
Annette Hufton	National Association of Teachers of Dancing
Nick Humby	British Basketball Federations
Alister Humphreys	GBG
Mo Islam	UK Dodgeball Association
Stewart Jeeves	WheelPower
Liz Johnson	Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles
Tim Jones	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Chris Jones	England Athletics
Marguerite Killingbeck	Laban Guild for Movement and Dance
Diana King OBE	British Model Flying Association Royal Aero Club British Gliding Association
Marcus Kingwell	AoC Sport
Kate Lawrenson	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Jeremy (Jem) Lawson	British Wrestling Association
Brian Lee MBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Honorary Member
Abbie Lench	England Golf
Tracy Levy	Margaret Morris Movement International
Robert Loudon MBE	The Camping and Caravanning Club
Alaina MacGregor	British Blind Sport
Chris Martin	Volunteer Kinetic
Roberto Martin-Hurtado	Broomwood FC
Lee Mason	CSP Network
Kerry McDonald	StreetGames UK
Wendy McGowan	British Eventing Ltd
Andrew McLellan	Microtrading Ltd
Gary McLeod	Traveleads
Liz McMahan	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Hayley Morris	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Tamara Morriss	QuidditchUK

Lisa Morton-Smith	Cerebral Palsy Sport
Rosemary Napp	Sport and Recreation Alliance Honorary Member
Matt Neville	British Gymnastics
Mark Ormerod	Leap
Timothy Osborne	England Touch
Vijaya Panangipalli	Sport and Recreation Alliance
David Pegg	Sport and Recreation Alliance Honorary Member
Margaret Peggie OBE	Fitness League / Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Ross Perriam	EMDP
Robert Pettigrew MBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Annamarie Phelps CBE	British Rowing
Christian Pilkington	Broomwood FC
Brian Pollard	NCMD
Mike Power OBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Andy Reed OBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Luke Roberts	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Thea Rogerson	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Barbara Rose	Medau Society
Rachel Roxburgh	Dallaglio Foundation
Adrian Ruth	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Clare Salmon	British Equestrian Federation
Chantel Scherer	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Guilherme Scodeler	Dallaglio Foundation
Andrew Scoular	British Judo
Janice Shardlow	British Equestrian Federation
Katie Shone	Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles
Ryan Sismey	Notts County FC Football in the Community
Jacob Smith	SOUK LTD
Pat Smith MBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Will Smithard	ukactive
Hilary Sommerville	Sport and Recreation Alliance Guest
Alan Sommerville CBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Guest
Wendy Southern	Haymarket Network
Sue Storey	Sports Grounds Safety Authority
Rob Tate	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Professor Peter Thomas MBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Leigh Thompson	Sport and Recreation Alliance
David Thorley	England Boxing
Julie Tomkins	Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing
Karen Tonge MBE	British Table Tennis Association for People with Disabilities (BTTAD)
Sarah Treseder	Royal Yachting Association
Helen Underwood	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Raffaella Villa	Modernian Swimming Club
Emma Wade	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Lisa Wainwright	Volleyball England
Tim Wainwright	Rugby Football Union
Geoff Webb	The Institute of Groundsmanship

Hilary Weedon	The Medau Society / Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Lyn West	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Rebecca Whelan	Modernian Swimming Club
Caroline White	YHA England & Wales
Kevin Wilbur	English Schools' Football Association
Lynda Williams	Panathlon Challenge
Ian Wilson	England Hockey
Theo Wood	Photographer
Sue Wressell	Sport and Recreation Alliance

It is with regret that the recording of this meeting was corrupted and the formal transcript is not available. The Minutes below therefore summarise the points made under each agenda item based on the speaking notes available.

1 President's Remarks

HRH The Earl of Wessex, President and chair of the meeting, welcomed members and guests to the 75th Annual General Meeting of the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

2 Annual Report

HRH invited the Alliance Chair, Andrew Moss, to present this year's annual report. Andrew began by saying how honoured he was to be standing in front of everyone at the meeting; sport and recreation meant so much to so many people and all were aware of its importance and the role it could play in people's lives. He went on to say that he felt very lucky to be able to contribute, combining his own business experience with his love of sport and recreation.

When Andrew joined the Alliance Board in January 2016 he came into an organisation working at pace to help keep members and the wider sector fit for the future. It continued to do so because the sector was full of challenges and opportunities. The Board and staff feel that the Alliance plays a key role in representing and shaping developments in the sector and he had also been hugely impressed by the efforts of those who work for the members. Above all, that is what today was about – celebrating how the members come together to make sure that sport and recreation can continue to thrive and make a difference to individuals and society as a whole.

As far as the Alliance was concerned, Andrew knew that he was fortunate to chair a forward-thinking Board of Directors supported more than ably by a terrific staff led so well by Emma Boggis. He thanked all involved at the Alliance for helping him to settle in over the past six months.

The Alliance was also lucky to have Honorary Members and Vice Presidents who have over the years continued to show dedication and generosity with their time. Sadly, the Chair had to comment on the recent losses of George Cubitt MBE, Senior Vice President, and Peggy Spencer, Olive Newson and John Disley CBE, three Honorary Members, during the past year. Although he had not met them personally, he was aware of the valuable contributions they had made and wanted to record the organisations thanks to them.

So, moving to events of the past, very busy year. The '*Keeping Fit for The Future*' document launched today included the developments of the past year and the difference the Alliance felt it had made.

Last summer, the Alliance had consulted with members and the wider sector on the Government's new strategy which had been released last December. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport attended the divisional meetings and listened to all that was said. When '*Sporting Future*' was released it was pleasing to see that many of the elements with the Strategy featured in Alliance discussions and its Fit for the Future programme of work. It reflected the benefits of outdoor recreation, the importance of good governance and the contribution made by the Voluntary Code on Broadcasting. References to these things in the strategy demonstrated Alliance success in making the sector's case heard although we should also acknowledge that the Alliance's words fell on a willing ear.

The Alliance took a lead in the 'Get Your Kit On' campaign to make sure that the outcome of the Spending Review protected funding for grassroots sport and recreation. We encouraged members and the wider sector to send a direct message to the Chancellor, George Osborne, to let him know why grassroots sport and recreation was so important.

In early November when the campaign launched, the hashtag appeared over 18 million times over the course of 20 days and over 2000 people directly contacted the Chancellor from the Get Your Kit On microsite. Perhaps the Alliance can't go as far as to claim a direct correlation between the campaign and the encouraging outcome to the Spending Review, but the Chair thought it was clear that the collective voice was heard.

Just a couple of months ago, Sport England released their new strategy '*Towards an Active Nation*'. Again, the divisional meetings were used to inform Sport England on parts of the sector less familiar to them and Jennie Price, CEO of Sport England, addressed the Alliance's Sports Summit in May just days after launching the strategy, to nearly 200 leaders across the sports and recreation sector.

We are all operating in a new funding environment in the sector and the Alliance's *Fit for the Future* programme is our long-term effort to deal with the new environment, meet its challenges and take advantage of its new opportunities.

True to form, many great things happen in our member organisations and the Chair highlighted a few:

British Wrestling determined that they should review their governance structure and look to attract more women to their Board. They also worked with Women in Sport and participated in a joint event called '*Race to the Top: Raising the Bar for Gender Equality on Sports Boards*' where British Wrestling Chair, Jem Lawson, described the challenges they faced and what a difference it had made since they appointed three new women to their Board. The hope is that this new leadership will help make their aspirations of more girls and women taking part in their sport a reality and early indications are encouraging.

The British Mountaineering Council launched a campaign that raised over £100k in the last year. '*Mend our Mountains*' was a crowdfunding campaign to help raise awareness of the need to look after our landscapes and repair mountain paths on Britain's peaks. It also highlighted the pressure which many national parks and public bodies are under due to cuts in budgets. The money was raised in collaboration with eight national parks. The Chair thought it was a great example of using alternative funding sources to help people to continue to enjoy outdoor recreation.

The final example was the Pony Club which this year decided to re-invigorate their brand as a result of formal and informal feedback collected over the last few years. They consulted with their membership to see how perceptions were affecting/declining membership numbers and what improvements to communication could be made. At their conference in March they launched their brand as part of a wider commitment to using technology to capture data and engage with their members. Changes have been made and everyone involved with The Pony Club was able to get behind a new look after 87 years as an iconic brand.

The theme of collecting and using data in new ways to measure impact was the theme for the Alliance's Sports Summit in May and it was good to see an actual example of this.

So much had been happening over the last year but as an organisation the Alliance must look to the future and is developing a new organisational strategy. The sector has real challenges and unless the Alliance moves with the times it will be in danger of becoming irrelevant. It will not lose sight of its role as the independent voice of the sector but it would have to face some facts.

Participation figures were always a challenge across sport and recreation. The new Government strategy will begin to focus on the impact a sport had across five outcomes in addition to participation. The new Active People Survey released last month highlighted where growth had taken place and identified some areas where particular sports were facing some challenges. This was the discussion at a recent event at the House of Commons to celebrate GB winning the Davis Cup in tennis. Changing behaviours, in response to new digital technologies, will increasingly need to be considered for our sector. E-sport is here

and its real and it is only going to grow. The Chair is determined that the sector embraces these changes and find ways to use technology to encourage more participation over the coming months and years.

Finally, he closed his report by reminding everyone that 'Keeping Fit for the Future' was about the sector continuing to work together to support and celebrate the efforts to make sport and recreation thrive. He and the Alliance Board and staff looked forward to continuing to work with the membership during the year ahead.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Royal Institution of Great Britain on 8 July 2015, having been circulated, were signed by HRH The Earl of Wessex as a true record of the meeting.

4 Annual Accounts

Nick Bunting, Director, presented the statement of Accounts, Balance Sheet and Report of the Auditors for the 12 months ended 31 March 2016.

The Statutory Accounts had been made available on 6 July 2016 and provided the consolidated position of both the Alliance and its wholly owned subsidiary, Sport and Recreation Ventures Ltd. The accounts had been audited by UHY Hacker Young LLP and were approved by the Board of Directors on 14 June 2016. A key role of both the Board and its Finance Committee was to make sure that the organisation had appropriate controls in place and continued to identify, evaluate, and monitor any risks to which the Alliance may be exposed. Nick confirmed that the controls in place were good and there had been no control issues during the year.

He highlighted that the main source of funding continued to be from Sport England. This year the contractual funding amounted to £1,477,000 which included the upgrade of the Alliance's new website. The Alliance raised additional funding totalling £460,000 through membership subscriptions, projects and other income, including commercial.

This year, operating costs increased by 7% due primarily to the website upgrade but overall the Alliance completed with a consolidated deficit for the year of £49,000.

Nick advised that the Alliance continued to make efforts to reduce its net pension liability and had reduced this by over £300k this year. This was a long-term liability and did not affect the going concern assumption.

He completed his report by stating that like many of its members, the Alliance continued to look for new ways to grow its income and minimise its expenditure. The organisation had ambitious plans for the year and had a strong team in place to help achieve them.

5 Ordinary Resolution to Re-Appoint Auditors

The President read out the resolution to the meeting that UHY Hacker Young LLP be and are hereby reappointed auditors of the Company to hold office from the conclusion of this Meeting until the conclusion of the next General Meeting at which accounts are laid before the Company, at a remuneration to be fixed by the Directors.

There was no indication that anyone wished to vote against the resolution and, with a show of hands that indicated those voting members were in favour, the resolution was passed.

6 Board of Directors – Notification of Elections and Appointments

The Meeting was reminded of the outcome of the election process conducted by the membership by electronic ballot during March – April 2016 when Lee Mason was duly elected for the three-year period 2016 – 2019.

Tim Jones and Adrian Ruth were the two new Appointed Directors also to start a three-year term following the conclusion of the AGM and the President congratulated all three individuals, drawing attention to them in the meeting for the benefit of the membership.

Lee, Tim and Adrian would join the other Directors on the Board: Jane Bateman, Brendon Batson, Nick Bunting, Phil Chamberlain, Mike Power OBE and Andy Reed together with the Chief Executive, Emma Boggis.

The President thanked the retiring Directors, Liz McMahon, Howard Wells and Lyn West for their work on the Board, in particular Howard who had served 12 years and had been a previous Chair of the organisation.

7 Awards

7.1 Community Sport and Recreation Awards

HRH introduced the Community Sport and Recreation Awards (CSRAs) which were presented to sporting and recreational clubs, organisations or bodies which were judged to have performed excellent work within their local communities.

Alister Humphreys from GBGroup presented the **Award for Youth Volunteering**. He stated how pleased the GBGroup were to sponsor the Award because they believed that practical action in the service of others could create positive change in developing the skills and personal growth of young people. The Youth Volunteering Award recognised those grassroots initiatives that helped create the volunteers of tomorrow and develop their skills and provide valuable experience. The 2016 winner of this Award, Modernian Swimming Club, was a local community club in Bedford that celebrated its 50-year anniversary in 2015. The club with just over 100 athletes focused on developing each child's potential and offered subsidised swimming lessons to children from low socio-economic backgrounds in the area with an initiative called Modernian Crash Course.

The initiative was also part of a wider volunteer programme at the club and one that had really helped to make the club a success. As part of the course they developed and involved young volunteers to create both a lasting legacy for swimming and also for volunteering at the club. There were now approximately 60 volunteers lending their support by teaching, coaching and generally helping run the club. This allowed costs to be kept to a minimum which translates into more free swimming lessons.

The swimming programme delivered a meaningful impact in the community by offering children the chance to not only learn to swim, but by providing them with opportunities to develop new skills. Nearly 1500 children had taken part in the initiative so far and 40 of the young volunteers currently in the programme had become ASA certified swim helpers or teachers, and are now themselves helping to teach Modernian Crash Course. Five had chosen to teach swimming as a career path and had trained to become a coach, and four had trained as Young Officials.

HRH presented the Award and prize money to Raffaella Villa, Swim 21 Coordinator, on behalf of the Modernian Swimming Club.

Bobby Barnes from the Professional Footballers Association (PFA) presented the **2016 Professional Club Community Programme of the Year Award** and stated how pleased they were to sponsor the Award because the PFA had been supporters of grassroots sport and community programmes dating back 30 years when it established the National Football in the Community Programme based at professional clubs across the country. The Community Programme of the Year Award looked at those club programmes that had a positive impact on the local community. The 2016 winner, Notts County Football Club Football in the Community, was established in 1989 and used sport for social good. Over the past 25 years, the club had expanded to deliver over 34 projects on a weekly basis across 40 venues in Nottingham and now worked with approximately 10,000 individuals annually.

The winner was a community sports charity and it had identified four areas of focus: education, health, social inclusion and sports participation. Through these four areas the organisation reached diverse sections of the community and also worked cross-industry with organisations such as NHS Nottingham and the University of Nottingham to deliver a range of bespoke projects to suit the needs of the local community to give people the opportunity to enjoy both the physical and mental wellbeing benefits of sport.

In 2007 they launched a new activity programme called - On the Ball. This was in partnership with Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and it introduced and engaged men living with mental health problems to football training sessions. During half time, there were team talks, using football based terminology to discuss topics such as building confidence and self-esteem as well as anger management. The club had employed a part time Mental Health Specialist since the beginning of the On the Ball programme to provide specialist advice and guidance.

The PFA was pleased to invite Tim Hatton, Senior Manager from Notts County Football Club – Football in the Community to come on stage where HRH presented him with the award and photographs were taken.

Hiscox sponsored the **2016 Social Impact Award** and Sam Franks from Hiscox acknowledged how sport played an important role in making communities stronger. The Award highlights how grassroots sport was bringing communities together and helping people to build new skills and improve mental health and this year's winner, Inspiring healthy lifestyles, was a community dance project that wanted to inspire people to choose a healthy, active and creative lifestyle.

By working in partnership with the local community of Wigan, the dance programme was able to reach children and young people from the most deprived communities, who would not usually get involved in arts activities due to cost and lack of access. The programme started in 2012, and three years later over 374 young people aged 8-16 years-old were taking part in free weekly dance sessions.

In addition to the physical benefits of dancing, the programme also provided children and young people with the opportunity to develop their confidence, improve communication and encourage positive behaviours. It also brought the local community together for the annual Dance Festival and the 2016 Festival had over 100 young dancers performing to an audience of 300 local residents.

Sam stated that it was a privilege to reward Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles with the £1000 prize money and he knew that the young people who got to keep on dancing as a result and got to travel to Manchester for a live dance performance would truly remember those experiences. He invited Katie Shone, Dance Co-ordinator, Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles to the stage to receive the award which was duly presented by HRH.

Richard Doubleday from Perkins Slade, stated how pleased they were to both sponsor and present the **2016 Overall Award**. He felt that this year's winner really set an example of how to make sure all of the local community could take part.

Broomwood Football Club was a community based, not for profit, organisation located in the London Borough of Wandsworth. It was a football club that existed to provide children and young people, with the opportunity to play football and had been running for over 20 years. Its all-inclusive ethos focused on encouraging boys and girls to get active and helped them to develop their personal skills and build friendships in the local area, which helped to bring different communities together.

The club had excelled at being able to create an accessible environment for local people and as a result, had recently reached a record membership level of 830 youth members – many from lower socio-economic backgrounds. These young people were starting to have an impact across their local community as the club has created an environment where their personal skills were developed both through football and volunteering. The club had recently funded two young members to become accredited referees.

Because the club was always looking at new ways to use football to improve the lives of local people it was now turning its attention to working with local adult women who might not think football was for them. The club regularly used 'development squads' to get people involved in a non-competitive environment and where the physical and mental benefits were more important. In February 2016, they launched a ladies FC and with the prize money from this Award, they hope to encourage more adult females in the community to play football by waiving the membership fees and demonstrating to them that getting active could be fun.

Richard invited Roberto Martin–Hurtado, Chairman of Broomwood Football Club, to the stage to receive his award. HRH presented Roberto with his award and photographs were taken.

7.2 Emeritus Awards

The President invited Andrew Moss, Chair of the Alliance, to read the citations for this year's winners of the Emeritus Awards. These were presented to an individual for their life-long or sustained service to grassroots sport and recreation.

Andrew advised that the first recipient was Michael de Giorgio, co-founder and Chief Executive of Greenhouse Sports, which he set up in 2002. Mike had been at the helm of the charity, leading its growth and continued success for the last 14 years and the organisation worked to develop the social, thinking, emotional and physical (STEP) skills of young people in London's inner-city communities through high-quality, intensive sports programmes.

Since 2002, 38,000 young people in London had taken part in their programmes. Mike had been a strong voice in advocating the social benefits of sport and in 2011 he chaired the Centre for Social Justice's report on how best to harness the power of sport to transform the lives of young people. His vision and influence had led to Greenhouse Sports' contributions being adopted in to the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

This summer Mike would step aside from his current role as Chief Executive but he would remain an active Trustee and ambassador for the Charity. Andrew was pleased to invite Mike to the stage to receive his award from HRH.

The recipient of the second Emeritus Award was Alan Sommerville OBE. Alan was the former British Gymnastics President, and was being awarded the 2016 Emeritus Award because he had dedicated his life to raising the profile of British Gymnastics and had worked tirelessly as an advocate for the best standards in sports governance.

He started his involvement in gymnastics back in the late 60's when he met nine-time British Champion and two-time Olympian Nik Stuart MBE. Alan quickly realised the potential of gymnastics on a UK-wide scale and together with Nik, the pair introduced the sport across the country. Alan also established the first gymnastics club in Derbyshire and took every opportunity to spread the word about the sport. His passion and involvement in British Gymnastics grew over the years and he served as the first ever Chief Executive of British Gymnastics before becoming President. He was also Head of Delegation for UK teams competing at World and European Championships. He retired from his role as President this past February.

Andrew invited Alan to join him on the stage to receive his Award which HRH duly presented. Alan thanked the Alliance for his presentation and gave a short acceptance speech before leaving the stage.

7.3 Arthur Bell Trophy

The Arthur Bell Trophy was awarded each year to celebrate the exceptional work of individuals or organisations that lead and champion sport for social good in the community.

HRH The Earl of Wessex introduced Peter Baines, incoming President of the Rugby Football Union, who provided some information about why they nominated this year's Award winner.

Peter Baines stated how delighted he was to be present at the meeting to honour an individual whose organisation had used sport to transform young people's lives. Rugby and its core values could make a real and positive difference and no one had demonstrated this more than the nominee that was the recipient of the Trophy this year.

The RFU nominated this individual through their Try for Change programme, which promoted, supported and grew the power of rugby for social good, as a result of the passion and enthusiasm they had shown in being a driving force behind the charity's growth; championing the cause of young people, and improving their lives by using the sport they loved.

They looked forward to continuing to work with the Alliance in the future and introduced a young man who had been a student on RugbyWorks – a rugby for social good programme working with 14-17-year-olds and run by the nominee's organisation.

Gui Scodeler was in the third year of the RugbyWorks programme and in addition to studying at college, he also volunteered for RugbyWorks by supporting the coaches at his old school. Gui gave a very eloquent speech about how his confidence had grown by being part of the programme/initiative and why this was so important.

The Award winner today had long been recognised for his contribution to elite sport at international and domestic levels. As one of England's most decorated rugby union player's he received a remarkable 85 caps for England and was part of the 2003 Rugby World Cup winning England team. However, Gui stated that he was present at the AGM to join the Alliance in recognition of the recipient's outstanding contribution to community sport and helping young people's chances of employability and ultimately helping them to have a better start in life.

RugbyWorks was established by the Dallaglio Foundation, a charity founded by Lawrence Dallaglio in 2009.

Through the Foundation, Lawrence had set up this life-changing initiative. RugbyWorks was in operation in London, Newcastle, Bristol and South Wales and worked with people like Gui who sat outside of mainstream education. The programme helped to develop self-confidence and communication skills whilst exposing students to various vocational opportunities with the goal of making sure they got into further education, employment or training.

The Foundation used rugby's core values such as leadership, discipline, sportsmanship, respect and enjoyment to deliver the programme. Lawrence had used his own passion for the sport he loved to help experience the benefits that rugby gave him. Gui was in his third year of the programme and the amazing thing about it was the fact that the coaches had been with him through the whole journey. They had helped him to achieve things he truly didn't believe he could. He felt lucky to have met Lawrence several times and had seen how much the programme meant to him.

He asked everyone to join him in congratulating this year's award winner on his deserved award, Lawrence Dallaglio OBE. Lawrence went on stage where he stood next to the Trophy with HRH, Peter, Gui and Andrew for a photograph.

Lawrence took the opportunity to thank HRH, Peter Baines, Gui Scodeler and the Alliance for presenting him with the Award this year. He gave an acceptance speech before leaving the stage.

The President congratulated all the award winners and confirmed that this concluded the Annual General Meeting. He invited everyone to remain for the lunch and thanked Hiscox for their sponsorship of the drinks reception.

End.